

Mr. Peter Fraser,
OMA.

1 March 1986

Dear Mr. Fraser,

The situation hasn't changed. Some ten thousand people with environmental illness in this province are not getting health care that's properly administered and covered under OHIP. From the perspective of those of us who are sick, the main obstacle to our getting treatment is petty politics in medical officialdom, principally in your organization.

Whatever scientific, technical, or medical questions there are, the refusal of the trade association of doctors in the province to recognize the problem neither negates it's existence, nor excuses withholding treatment. It does bring into question the value of using a trade organization to get advice on a subject.

The Ontario Medical Association's position, albeit for reasons of ignorance rather than conspiracy, is vicious and cruel. We have documented cases of people who have committed suicide who, finding themselves suffering chronic depression as a result of hypersensitivity, were hindered rather than helped by your organization's confused notion of professional concern.

Bioethicist Dr. David Roy calls your position 'intellectually unjustified', given the empirical evidence which is our existence.

I find the arrogance of a few doctors who choose to deny the experience of some ten thousand people somewhat greater than any I've experienced before. Their abilities at selective perception must be quite highly developed not to be slapped in the face by the overwhelming silliness of their position.

You have asked me to comment on the recommendations in the Thompson report. I merely point out to you that he says our story is tragic, particularly in that we have been prevented from getting treatment, and that he suggests, among many quite careful recommendations, that the OMA bring together doctors concerned about our illness into a specialty.

If the medical minds and consciences of your executive are not able to comprehend the issue of environmental illness, after twenty years of being lobbied, after a provincial commission lasting almost a year, despite hundreds of well documented articles in medical literature, I can only suggest your executive members carefully review their hippocratic oaths, and then, perhaps, take a glance in the mirror and consider the people who have died as a result of their arrogance. A few more deaths and the OMA will be forced to change personnel on some committees to retain credibility on this issue.

I'll keep you posted on those new deaths as they occur.

Thanks,



Chris Brown
AGES (Advocacy Group on Environmental Sensitivity)
Ottawa Chapter
cc. Doug Geekie, CMA
MPP's

AGES
Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive